

07 January 1986

Dear Mom and Dad,

Thank you for the family photograph which certainly turned out well. I hope we can get together again soon to create another one! I guess we are getting your winter weather now. No snow, but the north wind is blowing and the temperature is falling through the 20's this evening. It was a beautiful day, however, with bright sunshine.

On New Year's eve we went to the opera at the Kennedy Center and decided that is the best way to spend the evening. We got home early enough to stay up to midnight watching a rerun of the Jack Benny show on public TV. On New Year's day I baked beans for eight hours in Mrs. Lansing's bean pot and they were a delicious accompaniment to our oysters on toast. Then last Friday we went to the Folger Theatre to see another performance (our fourth, I believe) of The Merry Wives of Windsor. This time the actors portrayed clowns. The reviews were unfavorable but we enjoyed it. Finally, last night we went to the last of the operas in our series of five. It was another comedy sung in English and a lot of fun. I forgot to mention that on Saturday we drove to Richmond, toured the state capitol, and visited the Confederate Museum. Downtown Richmond is being revived by means of yet another covered mall which is incorporated in some old buildings. We drove down Route 301 through Maryland then across the Potomac River bridge near Dahlgren. I'm sure you remember that route as

we drove it several times when we lived down that way.

I've had it pretty easy for four weeks since class let out, but it is back to school again next week. I did get A's in my two classes last term. Fortunately I was able to do quite a bit of class work at the office. Now I am rather busy at work so it will be a challenge to get everything done. I have some leeway because I don't really need to get A's in my classes as finishing the course of study is the important thing.

I'm sure you are interested in an important year-end statistic: 4.56 miles per day. This falls short of my nominal 5, but isn't too bad. We are getting a little lax, however, because we skipped the 15 mile run around American University last Sunday on account of 30 mph winds and a falling temperature. Vickie was so pleased when I suggested staying home! I know I have more things to tell you but I will wait until next time.

Love,

Jim & Vickie